

PUBLIC INTEREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PIAC) MEETING
9/9/03, 10:30-11:30, Department of Environmental Protection
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Patty Foley, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay (chair); Bruce Berman, Save the Harbor/Bay (Alternate), Ed Bretschneider, Wastewater Advisory Committee; Joe Favaloro, MWRA Advisory Board; Tara Nye, Association to Preserve Cape Cod (Alternate, by phone); Steve Tucker, Cape Cod Commission;

Observers: Cathy Coniaris, MADEP; Winifred Donnelly, MADEP; Wendy Leo, MWRA; Megan Lim, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay; Susan Redlich (MADEP), Larry Schafer.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Minutes From 4/22/03 approved. (Steve Tucker will be adding some post meeting comments.)
2. Group agreed that any discussions about changes in monitoring should be based on first data sets in order to ensure that the whole data universe will be taken into account.
3. Members agreed to put together an information packet for the public that would be available after the October OMSAP meeting. It would include: consensus letter (hopefully signed by all), a summary of the proposal revisions, and comments from group members.
4. PIAC will submit their consensus letter to EPA and DEP during the public comment period for MWRA's proposed revisions to the outfall monitoring.

MINUTES

Review of April 22, 2003 minutes

The minutes were approved. Steve Tucker will submit a post-meeting comment to clarify one of his statements in the April 22, 2003 minutes.

Overview of OMSAP's recommended changes

Cathy Coniaris reviewed the recommendations that OMSAP has made regarding revisions to MWRA's outfall monitoring plan: [See *OMSAP's Recommendations on Revisions to MWRA's Outfall Monitoring Program 2003* handout for details.]

PIAC discussion on OMSAP's recommended changes, PIAC comments on the proposed revisions and outreach to inform the public.

Members agreed that the group has not had big problems with the changes so far. There is a concern, however, that the group has about future changes. The group agrees that when planning any future changes, the changes should be based on original baseline MWRA data in order to avoid data diminution.

It was suggested that it is not good to collect data just to collect data and the changes are a good first step. Telemetry was discussed and the possibility that it can give us cheaper and better data.

The group discussed that since this project is so detailed, even the public policy portion of it can be confusing to the general public. However, it was mentioned that there may be a large number of people who would be upset if there was not enough public outreach. It is a tough balance to strike.

The group discussed putting together a press package to disseminate in order to explain why the monitoring needs to be continued. This will be after the OMSAP meeting in October. The letter from PIAC to OMSAP (hopefully, with all of PIAC signing on) will be included. There will be a chance for PIAC members to add their own thoughts at the end of the letter. Information from Cathy's handout will be added, too.

Various means of distributing the information were discussed. Some suggestions were: press conference, website, email newsletters, contacting the Mass. Marine Educators.

Cathy Coniaris reminded the group about the public process that the MWRA has to go through after the October OMSAP meeting. The MWRA will formally propose revisions and give public notice by publishing in the Environmental Monitor. EPA will send out a listserver message notifying the public of the proposed changes and the public comment period.

ADJOURNED

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- Agenda
- PIAC Monitoring Review Position Letter
- Master List
- Draft minutes of PIAC 4/22/03
- Summary of OMSAP recommendations
- Draft summary of 7/24/03 OMSAP workshop

Summary prepared by W. Donnelly. Post-meeting comments are included in [brackets]. All such comments have been inserted for clarification only. They do not, nor are they intended to, suggest that such insertions were part of the live meeting components and have been expressly set-off so as to avoid such inference.